

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including a track, for mounting to the support surface;

a lifter arm for mounting the panel thereon, wherein the lifter arm includes at least one foot disposed to slide along the track and the track includes a stop cooperating with the lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along the track;

a cam follower disposed to slide along the track, the cam follower including a wedge and a pivot arm mounted to the wedge, the pivot arm having a roller mounted thereto; and

an actuator for linearly translating the cam follower;

wherein the lifter arm includes a cam profile provided as a flange on the lifter arm that is sandwiched ~~by the cam follower~~ between the wedge and the roller such that the cam follower is co-operable therewith to linearly translate the lifter arm until its linear motion is arrested and to pivotably tilt the lifter arm when its linear motion is arrested.

4. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the actuator includes a screw rotatably mounted to the frame and the cam follower includes a threaded bore in meshing engagement with the screw so as to slide along the track when the screw is rotated.

5. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the actuator includes a motor having an output shaft and a flexible drive cable operatively coupled between the output shaft and one end of the screw.
6. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 5 having two said tracks and two said screws arranged in parallel, each track having one of said lifter arms and one of said cam followers disposed therein, and further including a transmission for coupling the motor to two said flexible drive cables, each of which is coupled to one end of the corresponding screw.
7. (Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim 6, wherein the cam profile includes a detent portion and the ~~cam follower includes a wedge~~ is seatable in the detent portion as the lifter arm is linearly translated and movable out of the detent portion to follow the remainder of the cam surface in order to pivotably tilt the lifter arm.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim ~~[[8]]~~ 7, wherein the detent portion includes an abutment therein preventing the roller from moving past the abutment.
10. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 9, wherein the at least one foot includes a front slider which is pivotable in the track.
11. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the track includes means co-operable with the front slider to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.
12. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 11, wherein the lifter arm includes a lock element slidable in the track, and the track includes a stop wall co-operable with the lock element to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.

13. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 12, wherein the track includes an opening therein adjacent the stop wall and the opening leads to a channel extraneous of the track, the lifter arm lock element moving into the channel as the lifter arm pivots.

14. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 13, including a panel attached to the lifter arm.

15. (Previously presented) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including a track, for mounting to the support surface;

a lifter arm for mounting the panel thereon, wherein the lifter arm includes at least one foot disposed to slide along the track and the track includes a stop cooperating with the lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along the track;

a wedge disposed to slide parallel to the track, wherein the wedge includes a pivot arm mounted thereto, the pivot arm having a roller mounted thereto; and

an actuator for linearly translating the wedge;

wherein the lifter arm includes a cam profile provided as a flange on the lifter arm that is sandwiched between the wedge and the roller, and wherein the cam profile has a detent portion enabling the wedge to linearly translate the lifter arm until its linear motion is arrested, the wedge moving out of the detent portion to follow the remainder of the cam profile and pivotably tilt the lifter arm when its linear motion is arrested.

16. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 15, wherein the actuator includes a screw rotatably mounted to the frame and the wedge is part of a trolley slidably mounted in the track and having a threaded bore in meshing engagement with the screw so as to slide along the track when the screw is rotated.

17. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 16, including a motor having an output shaft and a flexible drive cable operatively coupled between the output shaft and one end of the screw.

18. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 17 having two said tracks and two said screws arranged in parallel, each track having one of said lifter arms and one of said wedges disposed therein, and further including a transmission for coupling the motor to two said flexible drive cables, each of which is coupled to one end of the corresponding screw.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 18, wherein the detent portion includes an abutment therein preventing the roller from moving past the abutment.

21. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 20, wherein the at least one foot includes a front slider which is pivotable in the track.

22. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 21, wherein the track includes means co-operable with the front slider to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.

23. (Previously presented) A mechanism according to claim 22, wherein the lifter arm includes a lock element slidable in the track, and the track includes a stop wall co-operable with the lock element to arrest the linear translation of the lifter arm.

24. (Original) A mechanism according to claim 23, wherein the track includes an opening therein adjacent the stop wall and the opening leads to a channel extraneous of the track, the lifter arm lock element moving into the channel as the lifter arm pivots.

25. (Currently amended) A mechanism according to claim ~~[[25]]~~ 24, including a panel attached to the lifter arm.

26. (Previously presented) A mechanism for tilting and sliding a panel relative to a support surface having an opening therein selectively coverable by the panel, the tilt and slide mechanism comprising:

a frame, including one or more tracks, for mounting to the support surface;

one or more lifter arms for mounting the panel thereon, wherein each lifter arm includes at least one foot disposed to slide along one of the tracks and each track includes a stop cooperating with the corresponding lifter arm to arrest its linear translation along the track;

a trolley disposed to slide along each track, wherein each trolley includes a wedge having a pivot arm pivotally mounted thereto and a roller rotatably mounted to the pivot arm; and

an actuator for linearly translating the trolleys;

wherein each lifter arm has a cam surface sandwiched between the wedge and the roller of each corresponding trolley to linearly translate the lifter arm along the corresponding track as the trolley is translated when the lifter arm is free to linearly translate and to pivotably tilt the lifter arm as the trolley is further translated when the lifter arm is arrested from linearly translating.